



Am I Generous?

Focus God wants to do a work in our hearts. He wants to make us generous.

Open Have you ever given a gift you were especially excited to give? What was it, and who was it for?

Read Read John 12:1–8. Mary came to Jesus with a heart overflowing with gratitude and love. That love translated itself into worship through an extravagant gift. She was willing to give everything she had in order to bless the King. However, her gift caused another heart to be displayed—Judas' selfish heart. Wherever you find generosity, you'll find selfishness battling for control.

Generosity doesn't give to receive, but generosity is always rewarded by God. If you give, God is going to bless you, and no power on earth can stop His blessing.

- Talk**
1. Why did Mary give such an extravagant gift to the Lord? Why did it bother Judas so much?
 2. John 12 tells us that Judas was a thief—he was stealing from the money box. Would you be a thief as well if you stole from the church's offering box? What if you never put any money in it in the first place?
 3. Jesus put Judas in charge of the offering box, knowing that it was his area of weakness. Can you think of a comparable situation in your life? Why do you think the Lord gives us responsibilities in areas where we are weak?

4. There are three levels of giving to the Lord: tithes, offerings and extravagant offerings. Sadly, most believers never get to the first level. However, those who do get to the first level usually move on to the next one. Why do you think that is?
5. Is there any amount of money in the world that would impress the Creator of the universe? What is the most extravagant gift you could give Him?

Live

1. Read Luke 16:11–12. The extent of the responsibility you will have in God's kingdom is directly proportional to how you handle money. You are being tested, and the prize is the privilege of seeing souls saved, made whole and growing in God. If you want to impact the kingdom, make a commitment to handle your money in a way that is pleasing to the Lord.
2. Has the Spirit of God been speaking to you about an extravagant gift? If so, what has been keeping you from giving? Is it fear or doubt? Find someone to pray with you and ask the Lord to help you overcome those obstacles. Ask Him to increase your faith and give you an excitement to follow through and obey.

Pray

As a group, thank the Lord for His provision and His promises. Ask for specific direction about where and when to give your money, time and resources. Pray for one another, especially for those experiencing financial difficulties. Pray for God's provision in each other's lives and for freedom from fear.